

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lisa A. Haile on 5/8/2008.

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 29, 33.

Please amend claims 16, 17, 31, 32, 34 as follows:

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the recombinant at least one protein or peptide is ~~encoded by a nucleic acid encoding a consensus protein or peptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, or SEQ ID NO:53.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~nucleic acid encodes a sequence as is~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:31.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~modulating test agent functions as a~~ that affects the Homer signaling pathway is selected from a neuroprotective agent or an immunosuppressive agent.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the ~~agent is effective for treating neurodisorders~~ Homer signaling pathway is associated with a disorder selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathies and neurological pathologies related to neurodegeneration.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 32, wherein the ~~agent is effective for treating a disorder~~ is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, adult respiratory distress syndrome, dermatitis, meningitis, encephalitis, eczema, asthma, skin hypersensitivity reactions, atherosclerosis, leukocyte adhesion deficiency, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, Reynaud's syndrome, autoimmune thyroiditis, experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, Sjorgen's syndrome, juvenile onset diabetes, tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, polymyositis, granulomatosis, vasculitis, pernicious anemia, diseases involving leukocyte diapedesis, CNS inflammatory disorder, multiple organ injury syndrome secondary to septicemia or trauma, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, myasthenia gravis, antigen-antibody complex mediated diseases, and transplantations, including graft ~~vs.~~ versus host or host ~~vs.~~ versus graft disease

Claims Allowance

Claims 1, 3-22, 24-28, 30-32, 34 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1657 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be

viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Any inquiry concerning rejections or objections in this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bin Shen, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from about 9:00 AM to about 5:30 PM. A phone message left at this number will be responded to as soon as possible (i.e., shortly after the examiner returns to her office).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Jon Weber can be reached at (571) 272-0925.

B Shen

Art Unit 1657

/JON P WEBER/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1657